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MORENO VALLEY

Developer donates the maximum to Villaraigosa

Iddo Benzeevi, who is orchestrating the World Logistics Center, is supporting candidate for governor

By Jeff Horseman
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The developer of a massive warehouse complex in Moreno Valley has raised his support for former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Iddo Benzeevi's company, Highland Fairview, gave $58,400 — the maximum allowed by law in the 2018 election cycle — to Villaraigosa's gubernatorial campaign on Dec. 1, state campaign finance records show.

Benzeevi

Villaraigosa

The two donations of $29,200 — one for the primary, the other for the general election — put Highland Fairview among the top individual contributors to Villaraigosa, a Democrat seeking to succeed term-limited Gov. Jerry Brown in 2018.

Earlier this year, Villaraigosa endorsed the World Logistics Center, a 40.6 million-square-foot logistics complex — the size of 700 football fields — planned by Highland Fairview that would transform Moreno Valley's eastern side

Eric Rose, a Highland Fairview spokesman, said: "Mr. Benzeevi has long supported candidates who fight for jobs and economic opportunities for Inland Empire residents."

Luis Vizcaino, Villaraigosa's communications director, said Villaraigosa "believes that economic development and environmental regulations do not need to be mutually exclusive. As mayor, he helped to make Los Angeles a global leader in environmental sustainability while creating jobs and growing the economy."

" ... As governor, Antonio

CAMPAIGN » PAGE 5

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

FINISH INDIO JAIL, SHERIFF SAYS, BUT HE WON'T HAVE STAFF FOR IT

RENDERING COURTESY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Stan Sniff says he can't get people trained for various jobs in time for late-summer opening

By Jeff Horseman
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There's not enough staff to open the $330.35 million expansion of Riverside County's Indio jail, even partially, if construction wraps up as expected next summer, according to Sheriff Stan Sniff.

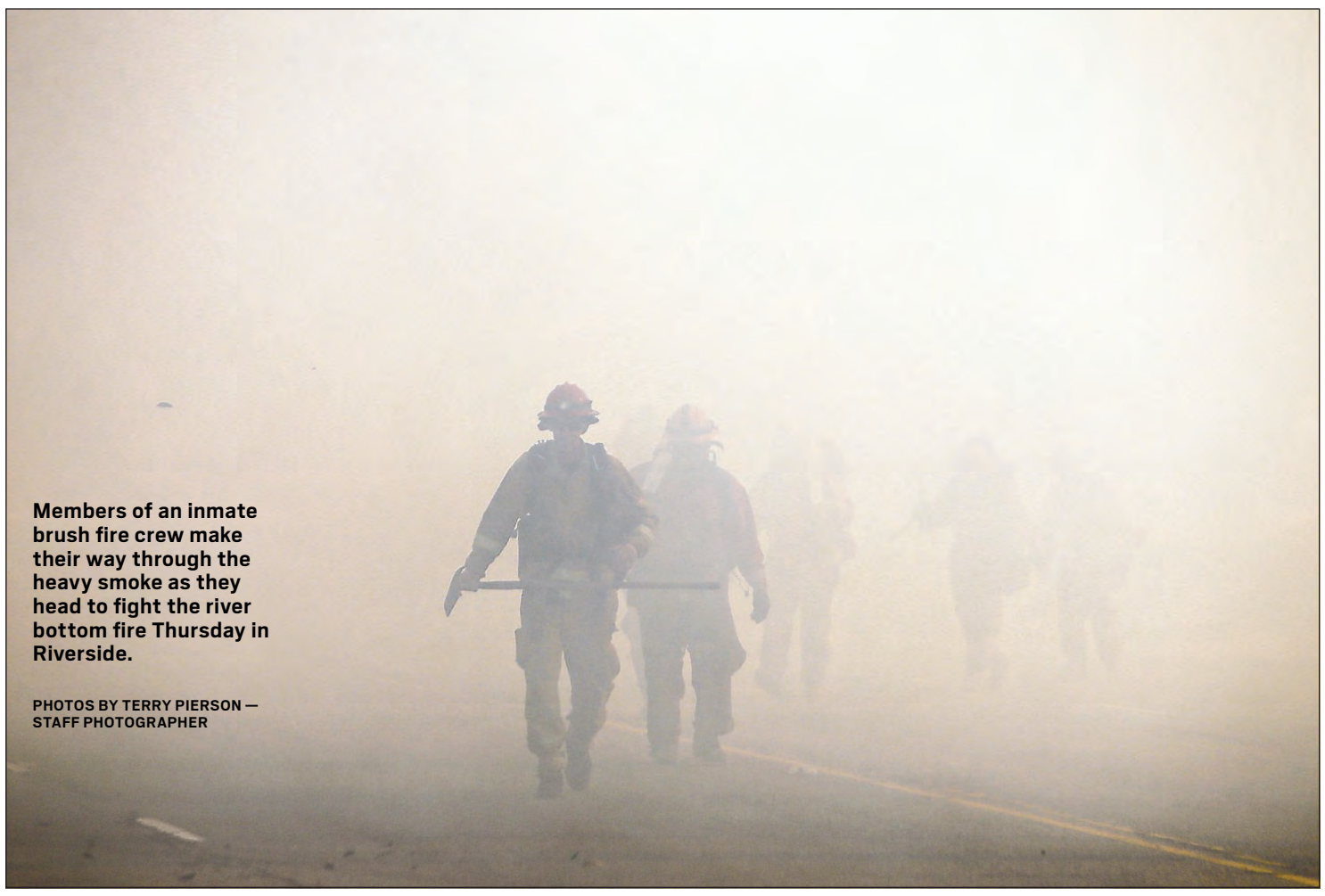
Sniff said it takes up to a year to screen and train employees to work in the jail, and there aren't enough people in the pipeline to staff the John J. Benoit Detention Center. Budget requests made in recent years to start the hiring process have gone unmet, the sheriff said.

Sniff

"We are committed to continue to work closely with the

JAIL » PAGE 2

RIVERSIDE


Members of an inmate brush fire crew make their way through the heavy smoke as they head to fight the river bottom fire Thursday in Riverside.

PHOTOS BY TERRY PIERSON — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

FIERY REMINDER

Winds up to 35 mph whip flames that erupted from Santa Ana River bottom, and crews get blaze 70% contained; winter fire called 'wake-up call' to constant threat.

Staff report

As if to reinforce fire officials' concerns about a year-round fire season in California, wind-driven flames raced out of the Santa Ana River bottom in Riverside late Thursday morning on the first day of winter, jumping from palm tree to palm tree but causing only minor damage to homes as crews eventually caught up with the inferno.

Riverside city fire Capt. Dave McClellan said that as of 4 p.m., there was no longer any threat to homes; as of 7 p.m., containment stood at 70 percent. The winds, which had reached 35 mph, had calmed, and ample firefighters were on the ground and in the sky.

"With the amount of resources, we're starting to get a handle on it," McClellan said.

The fire prompted evacuations and road closures, including Mission Inn Avenue into Jurupa Valley. But the iconic Festival of Lights celebration at the Mission Inn went on as scheduled Thursday.

No injuries were reported as of 3 p.m., Fire Chief Michael Moore

FIRE » PAGE 9

Flames driven by high winds climb more than 50 feet high along the Santa Ana River on Thursday.

UNITED NATIONS

Condemnation heaped on Jerusalem decree

General Assembly votes 128-9 against U.S. declaration of city as Israeli capital

By Rick Gladstone and Mark Landler
The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS » A majority of the world's nations delivered a stinging rebuke to the United States on Thursday, denouncing its decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and ignoring President Donald Trump's threats to retaliate by cutting aid to countries voting against it.

In a collective act of defiance toward Washington, the United Nations General Assembly voted 128-9, with 35 abstentions, for a resolution to demand that the United States rescind its Dec. 6 declaration on Jerusalem, the contested holy city.

The resolution is nonbinding and therefore largely symbolic, but the lopsided vote indicated the extent to which the Trump administration's decision to defy a 50-year international consensus on Jerusalem's status has unsettled world politics and contributed to America's diplomatic isolation.

Haley

Major allies like Britain, France, Germany and Japan voted for the resolution, though some allies, like Australia and Canada, abstained.

Carrying out a promise to his base of supporters, Trump's decision on Jerusalem upended decades of U.S. policy, aggravating an emotional issue that has festered since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, when the Israelis occupied the entire city.

Many Security Council resolutions since then, which have the force of international law, have warned that Jerusalem's status is unresolved, that claims of sovereignty by Israel are invalid, and that the issue must be settled in negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians.

Israel denounced Thursday's vote, likening it to a 1975 res-

JERUSALEM » PAGE 6

INSIDE

ROBERT CASILLAS — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Holiday travelers are caught in traffic at Los Angeles International Airport this week.

Starting the holidays behind the wheel
Gas prices are dropping and more people than usual will be on the road for the Christmas and New Year's weekends.
LOCAL 1

'The Post' and the papers
Steven Spielberg's new film about the Washington Post and the Pentagon Papers already is generating Oscar buzz.
SPOTLIGHT 1

He's lucky to be college football's 10-year man
Among contract extensions for coaches, the decadelong deal just given to Florida Atlantic's Lane Kiffin is laughable, columnist Jeff Miller writes. SPORTS 1

67 /45 Riverside | Temecula: 61 /45 | Desert: 68 /50 | Mountains: 52 /34

Lottery ..... A2 | Business ..... A10 | Obituaries ..... B3 | Comics J6
Weather ..... A8 | Opinion ..... A11 | Classifieds ..... F3 | Puzzles J7

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